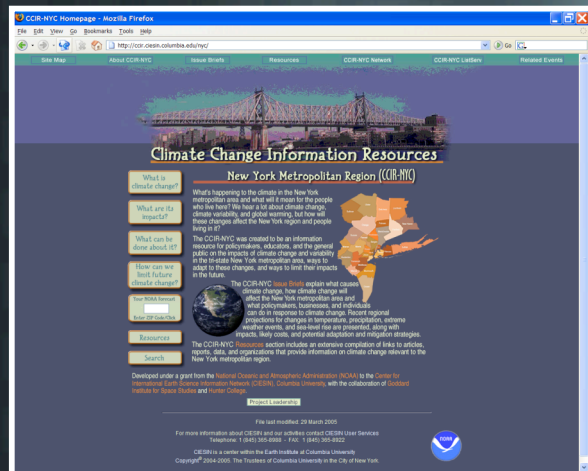# Climate Change Information Resources: An Operational Prototype

Roberta Balstad

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CCIR—NYC: What is it?

- Internet-based source for information on potential impacts of climate change on the New York metropolitan region, with a special focus on issues related to urban coasts and transportation systems

- An information resource, not a decision support system

- A prototype for the delivery of climate information to a general, non-scientific readership in an urban/metropolitan area

- A research and application project

CCIR Approach: Metropolitan Focus

- Few climate information resources directed to needs of urban areas

- Few climate information resources directed to needs of non-specialists, especially urban, regional, and metropolitan managers and policy- and decision-makers; educators and students; and the general public

CCIR Approach: Research

- Examination of information needs of individuals, educators, and policy makers/managers

- Examination of information-seeking behavior

- Iterative participatory design

- Move from research to operational prototype and review with users

Investigators

- Roberta Balstad, CIESIN, Columbia Univ.
- Chris Lenhardt, CIESIN, Columbia Univ.
- Bob Downs, CIESIN, Columbia Univ.
- Cynthia Rosenzweig, NASA
- Bill Solecki, Hunter College

Advisory Committee

- Karen Chytalo, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Marine Habitat Protection
- Andrew H. Darrell, Environmental Defense
- Kim Tripp, U.S. Park Service, Jamaica Bay
- Edward Linky, EPA Region 2
- James Yarmus, Rockland County Planning and Transportation Dept.
- Christopher Zeppie, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Chief Environmental Policy Officer
- Paul Elston, member of Governor Pataki's GHG Task Force

CCIR Approach: The Site

- ccir.ciesin.columbia.edu/nyc/
- Basic structure of the site
  - Home page
  - Issue briefs
  - Resources
  - Networking resources
  - Calendar

Structured Utility

- Home page—links to NOAA weather, county offices

- Issue briefs—download-able in PDF

- Resources—web-based and printed, including grey literature

- Networking resources—people and ideas

- Calendar—what's going on in the region

Outreach

- Public launch for New York leaders
- Circulation of post cards in other venues
- E-Press release led to other web notices and reviews

Monthly User Stats
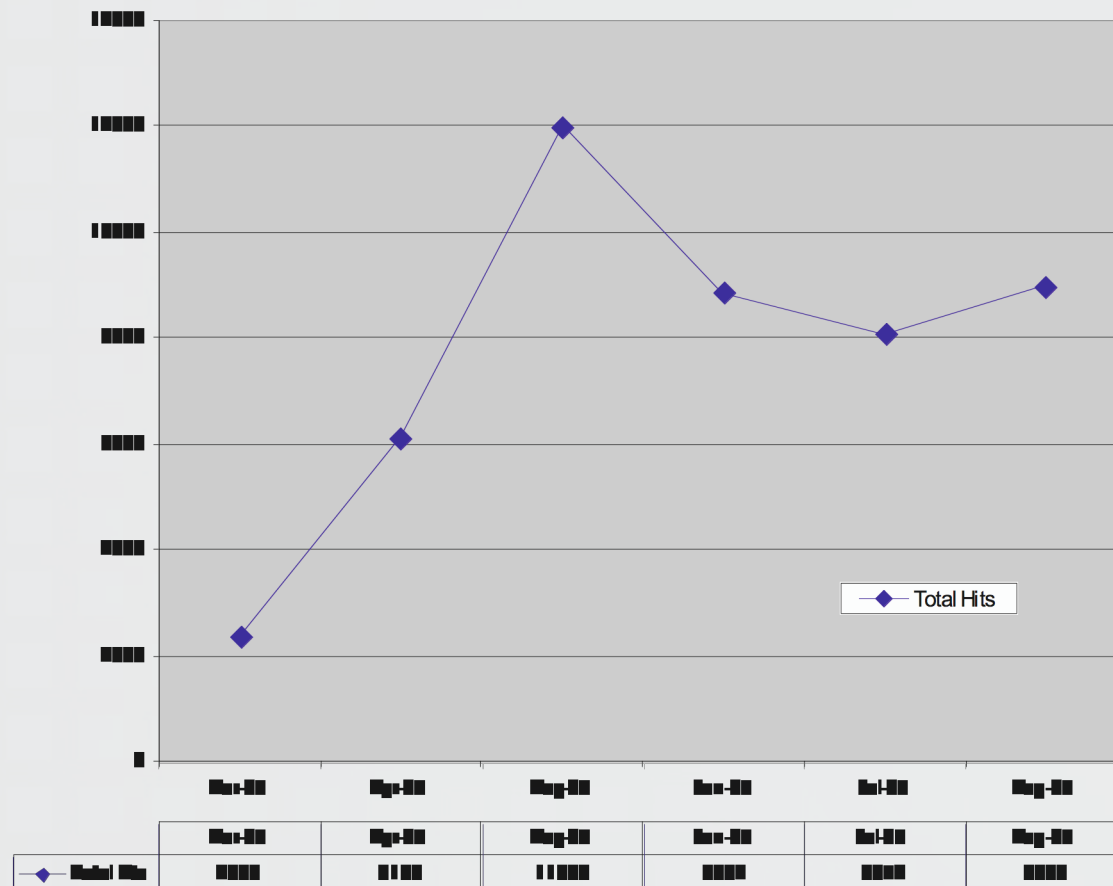
Maintenance and Upkeep

- Date all materials and periodically update contents

- Regularly check links, update events calendar

- Periodically conduct outreach to new users

- Periodically review utility with users

- Work with other cities to take advantage of economies of scale in climate change information/education

Goals of CCIR

- Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal…resources
- Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond
- Serve society's needs for weather and water information
- Support the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation

CCIR-NYC Demonstration

http://ccir.ciesin.columbia.edu/nyc